Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 167942 ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:AGLASPIE APPROVED BY NEA:AGLASPIE S/S-0:RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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SECRETSTATE 167942

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR ASST SEC SAUNDERS AND AMB LEWIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALEXANDRIA 0497 ACTION STATE CAIRO INFO TEL AVIV LONDON JULY 1.

QUOTE S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0497

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

ROM AMBASSADOR EILTS IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONDON MEETING

REF: STATE 166711

BEFORE LEAVING CAIRO THIS MORNING, I MANAGED TO CONTACT FONMIN KAMEL ON SECURE PHONE TO OUTLINE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SET FORTH REFTEL. GAVE HIM PROPOSED JULY 18-19 DATES AND TOLD HIM THAT EMBASSY LONDON HAS OBTAINED OFFER FROM CHURCHILL HOTEL OF 70 ROOMS ON SECRET

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CONTINGENCY BASIS. I SUGGESTED THAT GOE INSTRUCT ITS EMBASSY IN LONDON RESERVE UP TO 20 ROOMS AT CHURCHILL FOR EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

2. KAMEL, WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR ARAB LEAGUE SESSION ON YEMEN, HAD NO PROBLEM WITH JULY 18-19 DATES. HE SAID GOE DOES NOT WISH TO ACT RIGHT NOW TO RESERVE

THE 20 ROOMS. WORD OF THIS WOULD SURELY LEAK. THIS IN TURN WOULD MAKE ISRAELIS AND OTHERS BELIEVE THAT THE MEETING IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. PREDICTABLY, HE EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE AGAIN LEAKED THE NEW DATES AND THE VENUE FOR THE MEETING. GOE, HE STATED, DOES NOT WANT TO RESERVE HOTEL ROOMS UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED.

- 3. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT CHURCHILL HOTEL WILL ONLY HOLD THE RESERVATIONS THROUGH JULY 3, HENCE GOE SHOULD ACT QUICKLY LEST NEEDED ACCOMMODATIONS NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE. KAMEL'S SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WAS SIMPLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT, SINCE EMBASSY LONDON HAS ALREADY RESERVED 70 ROOMS, WE RETAIN 20 IN ADDITION TO THE 30 FOR OUR USE. AT A LATER DATE, AFTER THE INVITATION IS ACCEPTED, GOE WILL THEN TAKE THESE 20 ROOMS OFF OUR HANDS.
- 4. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS ARE A BIT MIFFED THAT EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE TAKING A FONMINS MEETING IN LONDON FOR GRANTED AND SPEAKING PUBLICLY ABOUT IT. KAMEL CLAIMS OTHER ARABS ARE BEGINNING TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEETING. GOE IS TAKING POSITION WITH ARAB AND OTHER INTERLOCUTORS THAT IT HAS NOT UP TO NOW AGREED TO ANY SUCH MEETING, BUT WILL CONSIDER AN INVITATION FROM SECRET

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PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN AND IF ONE COMES. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER KAMEL'S PROPOSAL THAT WE HOLD THE 20 ROOMS UNTIL GOE DELEGATION IS READY TAKE THEM OVER IS AGREEABLEABLE. MCCLELLAND UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CAT-B, PLANNING MEETINGS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 01 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE167942
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: AGLASPIE

Enclosure: REPEAT OF ALEXANDRIA 497

Executive Order: GS

Errors: n/a **Expiration:**

Film Number: N780006-0013

Format: TEL From: STATE **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 2

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807102/aaaadicj.tel

Line Count: 98 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56784a6b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS Reference: 78 STATE 166711

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1852733 Secure: LOCK1

Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040610

Subject: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONDON MEETING

TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, MPOL, US, EG, IS, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (KAMEL, MOHAMMED IBRAHIM)

To: JERUSALEM

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56784a6b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014